GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:787
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of exploitation of women at workplace have been reported frequently in different parts of the country;

(b) if so the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of such cases registered and disposed of by the National Commission for Women (NCW) during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by her Ministry to protect the women from such exploitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not separately maintain data on exploitation of women at work place. However, as per NCRB data, a total number of 52627, 49720 & 50574 cases were registered under Sections 354 (Molestation) and 509 (Eve-teasing) of IPC during 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. If molestation and eve-teasing are used as proxy indicators for sexual harassment, it can be said that there have been cases of exploitation of women in different parts of the country.

The number of cases of harassment at work place registered by the National Commission for Women (NCW) during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, is at Annex. NCW does not enquire into these at its level but urges the concerned organisation to undertake an enquiry into the charges as per the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Vishakha Vs. State of Rajasthan.

The Government attaches highest importance to prevention of all forms of exploitation of women and has enacted various legislations to prevent such crimes against them. However, 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects under the Constitution, primary responsibility of prevention detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Government of India has been advising them from time to time regarding the steps that need to be taken to afford a greater measure of protection to women. A detailed Advisory dated 4th September, 2009 has been sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations requesting them to undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness of the law and order machinery.

Further, the Government has introduced 'The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment Bill, 2010' in Lok Sabha on 07.12.2010 with the objective to protect women from sexual harassment at all workplaces both in the public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised.